Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

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Blaina, January 24th, 1895.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—During the year 1894 there were registered in the district 510 births—251 males and 259 females—and 276 deaths—146 males and 130 females. Assuming the population to be 13,500, the above figures give a deathrate and birthrate respectively for the year of 20.4 and 37.7 per 1000. With the exception of that of 1890, the above is the lowest deathrate since the district has been made an urban one in 1886. Zymotic diseases caused the following deaths:—Diphtheria and membranous croup, 12; typhoid fever, 4; puerperal fever, 2; measles, 2; influenza, 6; whooping cough, 7; and diarrhœa, 2; in all 35, the deathrate from these diseases being 2.5 per 1000 for the year. The twelve

Deaths from Diphtheria and Membranous Croup

took place on the following dates at the localities mentioned below, the ages of the victims being also specified:—

Jan. 4th—1½ years, 15 Chapel-road.
April 17th—3 years, 15 Part-street.
May 16th—11 months, Croesceilog.
July 2nd—2 years, 13 Queen-street, Garnvach.
August 6th—5 years, 5 Prince-street, Nantyglo.
August 22nd—4 years, 173 High-street.
August 29th—8 months, 23 Queen-street, Blaina
September 15th—3 years, 2 Abertillery-road.
September 24th—1 year, 170 High-street.
October 26th—28 years, Police Station, Blaina.
November 13th—4 years, 37 Garn-road, Nantyglo.
November 19th—1 year, Clwydcoed, Nantyglo.

The above, together with a non-fatal case in September at 183 High-street, and a second at 170 High-street, were all the cases of diphtheria that came to my knowledge during the year. Beyond the two cases in 170 High-street, and the cases at 173 and 183 High-street, none apparently had any connection with any other, the fourteen cases being distributed over a period of over ten months and over a district three miles in length. The case terminating fatally on November 19th was the last to come to my notice. The patient at the Police Station had returned to Blaina but the day before the commencement of the illness after an absence of nine days, so that in all probability he contracted the disease elsewhere. There was nothing markedly bad with regard to the drainage of most of the houses affected. The four

Deaths from Typhoid Fever

took place at the following localities on the dates specified :—

February 3rd, 84 Queen-street, Garnvach.

March 18th, 26 Griffith's-row, Nantyglo.
April 1st, 143 High-street, Blaina.
August 8th, Caddick's-row.

Including the above fatal cases of typhoid fever, the following have come under notice during the year. In January a case at 84 Queen-street, Garnvach; in February a case at 27 Griffith's-row, Nantyglo, one at 143 High-street, and one at 16 Mount Pleasant, Blaina. The disease at 27 Griffith's-row extended by the beginning of March to numbers 26 and 21 in the same row. About the middle of April a case appeared at 18 Perk's-row, During May and June three cases came under notice at West-side, Blaina, viz., one at 32 Shop-row, one at 15 Parson's-row, and one at 11 Inkerman-row. In July there was a case at 15 Stone's Houses, Blaina, and in August one in Caddick's-row. After this the district appeared to be free for a short time, when in October six fresh cases occurred, viz., three at No. 13 High-street and one at each of the following places: Round House, Nantyglo; Ffosmaen; and 19 King-street, Garnvach. The patients were so crowded at 13 High-street that it was deemed advisable to remove two of them to the isolation hospital. In November a case was under treatment at 8 Lamb-row, Blaina, and shortly before the end of the year three cases appeared as follows:—One at 123 Queen-street, Garnvach; one at 86 Queen-street, Garnvach; and one at 123 Abertillery-road, Blaina. These twenty-two are all the cases of typhoid fever that have come to my knowledge during the year. The sanitary conditions of the houses in which they occurred have been described by your Inspector or myself in our monthly reports. I

will here give a short summary from these reports. Nos. 21 to 26 and 27 Griffith's-row were old damp houses; the house drain opposite No. 21 was in bad working order; the people complained of bad smells arising from the house drain opposite No. 30 Griffith's-row though it was properly trapped. If sewage gas forced its way through the trap here it could only, I think, be due to want of ventilation in the drain. At 84-86 Queen-street, Garnvach, the closets and drains were in a fair state. Under 16 Mount Pleasant is a house drain which has since been cemented. At 143 High-street the sanitary condition was good. Under 18 Perk's-row was a badly made house drain, which has since been diverted, and the pan of the closet was broken. At 32 Shop-row nothing unsatisfactory was found, and the same applies to 15 Parson's-row. At 11 Inkerman-row there was no public sewer (one is now being constructed); there is a drain for carrying off surface water passing under the house, and, as the ground slopes downwards to the back of the house where the drain commences from the pit closet, it is possible that sewage matter may have found its way into the drain. This will be remedied when the sewer is completed and the closet connected with it. At 15 Stone's Houses the sanitary condition was good. At Caddick's-row the drainage is bad, there being no public sewer. When this has been rectified I hope there will be a decided improvement in the sanitary condition here. 13 High-street seemed in a fair state; there is a house drain passing under the house, but it is properly cemented. The closet at the Round House is in a bad state, but is being repaired.

8 Lamb-row is a badly ventilated house. Nothing wrong could be found at the time with the drainage at 19 King-street; since then, however, the drain has been choked and is being attended to now. 123 Queen-street, Garnvach, was served by a pit closet in bad repair; it has since been converted into a water closet and connected with your sewer, a very decided improvement. At 123 Abertillery-road the roof of the closet was rotten, which is being repaired and a new pan syphon will be placed there. Disinfection has been carefully carried out in these cases.

Puerperal Fever.

Two fatal cases of puerperal fever occurred, one at Pencoed Cae on January 9th and one on November 5th at 5 Quarry-row. One non-fatal case came under notice in Pump-street a little later in November.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Two deaths in January were due to the after effects of measles, these cases being part of the epidemic of the summer and autumn of 1893. In September there was a number of mild cases of German measles in the district.

There were a few cases of whooping cough in the district during 1893, but towards the latter half of the year 1894 it increased considerably in the upper part of the district, becoming distinctly epidemic by the end of the year, spreading to Blaina and causing from August 21st to December 19th inclusive seven deaths.

Diarrhœa and Influenza.

The two deaths from diarrhœa took place, the first at 28 Wesley Buildings on February 21st, and the

second on October 4th at 26 Arch Houses, Cwmcelyn.

The six deaths from influenza were scattered throughout the year, the greater number of cases of this disease coming under notice in the beginning of the year, and again later on with the approach of winter.

Scarlatina and Erysipelas.

In July a case of scarlatina appeared at 12 Church-street, and as the district had been free from this disease since the previous October I suggested sending the patient to the isolation hospital. To this, however, the parents demurred, but guaranteed to keep the child isolated at home, which they appear to have successfully carried out. Two more cases occurred at Nos. 4 and 50 Part-street during the following month, and in September there were two cases at Nantyglo. In December there was a case at each of the following houses:—148 Abertillery-road, 61 Abertillery-road, and 1 Henwain-row. There were no fatal cases.

Three cases of erysipelas have come to my knowledge during the year, viz., one at 30 Market-road, Nantyglo; one at 4 Quarry-row; and one at 11 Inkerman-row.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

The foregoing is a summary of the occurrence of zymotic diseases for the year 1894. Five only of the deaths were due to phthisis. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 82 deaths. Nine of the deaths were due to injuries.

I think if an ambulance were provided it would be

a more convenient and safer means of removing patients to the isolation hospital.

Improvements Effected.

Your Inspector (Mr. John Collins) has supplied me with the following list of sanitary matters attended to during the year :—

Legal notices served to abate nuisances	126
Verbal notices served to abate nuisances	149
New houses built and occupied	9
New w.c.'s erected	17
Privies converted to w.c.'s	11
Removal of swine kept too near houses	39
Pigs' wash tubs removed	34
Removal of accumulations of manure	29
Foul closets and privies abated	81
Foul gutters and choked drains abated	52

About 960 feet of earthenware socket pipe drains have been provided by owners of houses and connected with the Board's sewers, and about 96 houses and premises have been disinfected where there have been cases of infectious disease or houses found in a filthy condition. About £40 value in bedding and other articles likely to retain infection has been saved by having the same well disinfected. One public urinal has been erected at Garn Cross-road. The slaughter-houses, cowsheds and dairies, have been duly visited. Nine owners have not yet complied with the Board's notices, but promise that as soon as the weather will permit the work required will be done.

Your obedient servant,

H. C. BEVAN.

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